FORM No. 65.

Forest Department, Bombay, Central Circle.

Financial Results of the year 1894-95.

Division.	Timber and other Produce removed from the Forests by Government agency.		Other Revenue.		Formation, Protection and improvement of Forests.	Total.		Remarks.
	Receipts.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	Charges.	Receipts.	Charges.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
East Khándesh ...	21,036	8,042	1,19,513	8,032	46,758	1,40,549	62,832	
West Khándesh ...	73,299	11,115	1,53,772	10,247	65,843	2,27,071	87,205	
Násik	798	2,724	1,50,933	5,811	73,900	1,51,726	82,435	
Ahmednagar ...	7,813	3,072	48,471	4,055	63,727	56,284	70,854	
Poona	10,746	8,143	82,214	5,192	1,00,845	92,960	1,14,180	
Sátára	36,728	16,557	45,489	4,240	69,614	82,217	90,411	
Sholápur	273	727	33,321	1,271	32,556	33,594	34,554	
Total ...	1,50,688	50,380	6,33,713	38,848	4,53,243	7,84,401	5,42,471	

Camp Songaon, Poona District :
Dated 13th December 1895.

A. T. SHUTTLEWORTH,
Conservator of Forests, Central Circle.

B 1319—19 cc

No. R.—5168 of 1895.

Revenue Department.

Camp Indápur, 19th December 1895.

Submitted to Government.

2. There was an increase of nearly 160 square miles in the forest area, but no less than 143 square miles of this were due to the division of Western Khándesh. Sátára was responsible for 15 square miles, while the other divisions remained practically unchanged.

3. The forest settlement may be said to be complete, a small area of only some 13 square miles being under settlement at the end of the year.

4. I do not understand what difference there is between the compartments laid out by the surveyors of the Working Plans division and those laid out by the staff of the several divisional forest officers. It is not clear whether the work is the same or whether the work in each district has to be revised or re-done by the Working Plans establishment. My idea was that all forests had to be divided into blocks, which again had to be divided into compartments, one compartment in each block becoming the coupe of the year in a fixed rotation of 40 years. I do not understand whether this work is being done by the Working Plans officer or by the Divisional officers or by both together, or by the Divisional officers subject to revision by the Working Plans officer.

5. The number of prosecutions for forest offences increased in every division except Násik and Poona, the chief reason being persistent illicit grazing. The percentage of failures has risen everywhere except in Násik and Sholápur. Taking the whole circle, about four prosecutions succeeded to one that failed. The percentage in Poona is discreditably high and in Sholápur, Násik and Ahmednagar is far higher than it ought to be. It speaks well for Sátára that in so disputatious and vakil-abounding a district the percentage of failures should be so low. But Satára shows a very large proportion of the prosecutions for the whole circle, 767 out of 1,716, and out of Rs. 4,485 paid to informers, &c., Sátára was responsible for Rs. 2,589, the next district, Poona, only paying Rs. 584.

6. The numbers of compounded cases show extraordinary fluctuations. In West Khándesh and Poona the increase was very large, very considerable in Násik and considerable in East Khándesh, whereas the figures in Sátára, Sholápur and Ahmednagar were insignificant. Poona and West Khándesh were principally responsible for compensation exceeding Rs. 10 in each case. Poona was the only district in which rewards amounting to Rs. 410 in 321 cases were paid for assistance in detecting compounded cases.

7. Except in West Khándesh a large number of cases sent up for disposal under Section 67 were let off with a warning. In Ahmednagar, Sátára and Sholápur the number was enormous, considerable in Násik, and in East Khándesh and Poona about 5 cases were warned off against 2 in which composition was resorted to.

8. Out of a total of 14,878 offences, only 1,355 remained undetected, 1,716 were prosecuted and 1,458 compounded, and undue severity cannot be said to have been exercised.

9. I regret to say that I do not place any reliance on the figures showing the areas damaged by fire in each division. Khándesh is naturally responsible for the greater proportion of the area shown as burnt, but along the ghâts in Ahmednagar, Poona and Sátára I am sure that larger areas than those shown are fired though the damage done to standing timber may not be serious.

10. The number of impoundings goes on increasing. It has risen from 294,769 to 337,918. Roughly speaking 174,000 sheep and goats were impounded, and 144,000 cows and bullocks and about 18,000 buffaloes. The remaining animals may be left out of account. The number of impoundings by private persons was still larger than that by the Forest Department. If any reliance can be placed on the figures of the cattle census given in paragraph 117,

the numbers impounded were perhaps not abnormal. Of cows and bullocks 144,000 were impounded out of a total of 3,456,757, or about one animal in every 24. Sheep and goats were impounded in rather larger proportion, 174,000 out of 2,206,554 coming to about 1 animal in every 12. When it is considered what a number of absolutely useless sterile cows and worn out bullocks are kept, the number of impoundings is not perhaps large; but it is deplorable that so many useful animals like sheep and goats should have to be interfered with and yet the evil seems unpreventible.

11. The grass removed by hand in the Ahmednagar district hardly seems worth the trouble and labour that must be involved. An area of 89,684 acres only gave a return of Rs. 3,866 and the returns in Sholápur, Sátára and Poona were very small, not amounting to 8 annas per acre in any case. The return was better even in West Khándesh.

12. The tables given in paragraphs 114 and 117 show that out of a total of nearly 3½ million cows and bullocks nearly a million were grazed in Government forests, about 360,000 obtaining free grazing. The only conclusion is that about 2½ million cows and bullocks are grazed on land outside forests or are stall-fed. Of over two million sheep and goats, only 325,000 resort to Government forests.

13. If the tables in paragraphs 125 and 126 are examined, they show very varying results. In East Khándesh about 16,000 cubic feet of timber produced over Rs. 7,600, giving over 7½ annas per cubic foot. In West Khándesh 142,000 cubic feet produced over Rs. 57,000, also giving an average of over 7 annas per cubic foot. In Poona nearly 93,000 cubic feet only produced a little over Rs. 4,000, or less than one anna per cubic foot.

In East Khándesh 729,495 cubic feet of firewood realised over Rs. 7,500. In Sátára a larger amount only realised about Rs. 3,200. There may have been great differences in quality, proximity to markets, demand, &c., but the variations are great. The tables in paragraphs 129 and 130 show similar variations.

14. The financial results are not so satisfactory as those of the preceding year, but there is still a considerable surplus. The administration of the department has been worked with efficiency and credit by all the district officers under the Honourable Mr. Shuttleworth's careful and zealous supervision.

J. K. SPENCE,
Commissioner, C. D.

SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

No. 4944 OF 1895-96.

From

J. L. L. MACGREGOR, ESQUIRE,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle;

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Revenue Department,
Bombay.

Conservator's Office, Southern Circle,
Belgaum, 2nd November 1895.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit the Forest Administration Report of my Circle for the year 1894-95, together with its subsidiary statements.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

J. L. L. MACGREGOR,
Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle.

THROUGH THE COMMISSIONER, SOUTHERN DIVISION.